

JOSEPH A. JACHIMCZYK, M.D., J.D.  
FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER



228-8311  
Ext. 671 (DAY)  
Ext. 212 (NIGHT)

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
OF HARRIS COUNTY

HARRIS COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

AUTOPSY REPORT

Case 73 - 3408

August 15, 1973

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS ON THE BODY

OF

John Manning Sellars  
3668 Ridgemont Drive  
Orange, Texas

Gunshot wounds (4) of chest, through  
and through.

OPINION

It is our opinion that the decedent,  
John Manning Sellars, came to his  
death as a result of gunshot wounds  
(4) of chest, through and through -  
Homicide.

It is our further opinion that the time  
of death was on or about July 12, 1973.

  
Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., J.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner

(See Companion Cases 73-3365, 73-3366, 73-3409, 73-3412 and  
73-3413)

## POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

John Manning Sellars  
3668 Ridgemont Drive  
Orange, Texas

HISTORY: This body was recovered approximately 2 feet south of Highway 87, 2 miles east of the Chambers County line, in Jefferson County, Texas, at 10:40 a.m. on August 13, 1973. Unknowns #23 and #24 were brought to the Harris County Morgue at approximately 4:00 p.m. on August 13, 1973. (See Companion Cases 73-3365, 73-3366, 73-3409, 73-3412 and 73-3413)

AUTOPSY: The autopsy was performed by Chief Medical Examiner Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., assisted by Assistant Medical Examiners G. Sheldon Green, M.D., and Ethel E. Erickson, M.D., and Dr. Paul G. Stimson, beginning at 12:30 p.m. on August 15, 1973, in the Harris County Morgue.

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: The body was that of a well developed, decomposing, Caucasian male, lying on his back, with the feet flexed at the knees and the arms flexed at the elbows, dressed in a long sleeved, dark blue service-type jacket and Levi's, underneath which there was a yellow T-shirt. The yellow T-shirt had mushrooms and toadstools patterned on both the front and back. There was a left breast pocket, which was empty. There was a pair of jockey shorts, size 30. Attached to the belt loop, there was a pair of surgical forceps. In the left side pocket of the Levi's, there was a total of eight live rounds of .270 Winchester ammunition. In the right rear pocket of the Levi's, there was a broken off hairbrush and a cellophane envelope, within which there was marijuana. The head was covered with blonde hair, measuring up to 4-1/2 inches in length. The body measured 70 inches in length and weighed a residual 100 pounds. There were four gunshot entrance holes on the front side of the T-shirt and four exit holes on the back side of the T-shirt and jacket. The facial features were not recognizable. The thorax was symmetrical. There was a total of four gunshot entrance wounds on the anterior surface of the body. One was located at a point 6 inches below the suprasternal notch and 1/4 inch to the right of the mid line. This wound opening measured 1/4 inch in diameter. There was another gunshot entrance wound, located at a point 7 inches below the suprasternal notch and 1-3/4 inches to the right of the mid line. This wound also measured 1/4 inch in diameter. There was a third gunshot entrance wound, located at a point 9 inches below the suprasternal notch in the mid line. This measured 1/4 inch in diameter.

There was a fourth gunshot entrance wound located at a point 9-1/2 inches below the suprasternal notch and 1/2 inch to the left of the mid line. This wound measured 1/4 inch in diameter. The abdomen was scaphoid. There were no recognizable abdominal scars. The external genitalia were those of the dehydrated, wrinkled, mature circumcised male-type. Both testes were palpable within the scrotum. The anal orifice was widely gaping. There were no tears. There was extensive blue discoloration of the lower extremities from the Levi's. The legs were hairy. There was a pronounced skin slippage of the upper and lower extremities. There was a total of four gunshot exit wounds in the back. One was located at a point 9 inches below the foramen magnum and 1-1/2 inches to the right of the mid line. This wound measured 1/2 inch in greatest diameter. There was another exit gunshot wound located at a point 10-1/2 inches below the foramen magnum and 2-1/2 inches to the right of the mid line. This wound measured 3/4 inch in greatest diameter. There was a third gunshot exit wound at a point 12 inches below the foramen magnum and 1 inch to the right of the mid line. This measured 1/4 inch in diameter. There was a fourth gunshot exit wound located at a point 18-3/4 inches below the foramen magnum and 4 inches to the left of the mid line. This wound measured 3/4 inch in greatest diameter.

Postmortem X-rays revealed multiple bullet fragments in three separate clusters. One cluster was over the right 5th, 6th and 7th ribs adjacent to the spinal column. The right 7th rib was fractured approximately 1 inch from the spinal column. There was a second cluster of metallic fragments projected over the medial ends of the right 8th and 9th ribs and also their respective vertebrae. Other metallic fragments were scattered elsewhere over the right chest.

**INTERNAL EXAMINATION:** Section: The usual Y-shaped incision was made. The skin was partially saponified and decomposing. The subcutaneous tissue was light yellow and measured 1/4 inch in thickness at the level of the umbilicus. The pectoral muscles were tan-brown. There were four bullet tracts; two through the xiphoid process of the sternum; one through the 7th right rib; and the other through the 6th right interspace. Both the thoracic and abdominal viscera were decomposing and collapsed and emitted an unpleasant aroma. Two of the exit wounds penetrated the 6th rib, posteriorly, and a third penetrated the 9th thoracic vertebra, and the fourth exited the left side through the 11th left rib, posteriorly. The bullets thus coarsing from front to back were through and through. The diaphragm was shattered. The mesentery was shattered.

HEART: The heart was shattered. The aorta was very elastic.

LUNGS: The lungs were perforated by bullet tracts.

LIVER: The residual shattered liver weighed 350 grams.

Pancreas and Adrenals: The pancreas and adrenals were autolyzed.

SPLEEN: The spleen was shattered.

GENITOURINARY TRACT: The kidneys were similar in size, shape and appearance, together weighing 60 grams. The left kidney was shattered along the bullet tract. The right kidney was decomposing but, otherwise, not remarkable.

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: There was advanced decomposition of the entire gastrointestinal tract. Some loops were perforated by the bullet tracts.

NECK: Except for the decomposition, the neck organs were not remarkable.

HEAD: The scalp was reflected in the usual coronal fashion. The calvarium was not remarkable. The dura mater was not adherent. There was no epidural, subdural, subarachnoid or intracerebral hemorrhage. The brain was semiviscid, gray and cheesy. It weighed 750 grams.

DENTAL EXAMINATION

Utilizing the Universal System, all four third molars are in the crypt. There is distal occlusal and occlusal caries in the upper right second molar, tooth 2. There is a composite filling on the cingulum on the upper right lateral, tooth 7. There are diastemas between the centrals and the left central and lateral tooth 9 and 10. There is an occlusal amalgam and a distal pit amalgam on the upper left first molar, tooth 14, an occlusal amalgam on the upper left second molar, tooth 15, and an occlusal amalgam on the lower left second molar, tooth 18. An occlusal amalgam on the lower left first molar, which is tooth 19, a buccal caries pit on the same tooth. There is a distal enamel fracture on the lower left cuspid, tooth 22. There is an enamel fracture on the mesio-incisal angles of the lower left incisor, tooth 24, and the lower right incisor, tooth 25. There is an occlusal amalgam in the lower right first molar, tooth 30. There is buccal caries in the same tooth. There is an occlusal amalgam in the lower right second molar, tooth 31, and a buccal amalgam in the same tooth. Jaw relationships slight Class II.

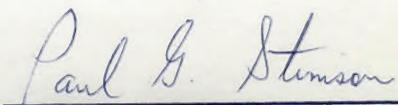
On May 24, 1974, at 9:50 a.m., at the request and in the presence of Chief Medical Examiner Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., I called the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, California, and was given three various locations at this time of the records of a John Manning Sellars, white male 18. No records were present at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot. A suggestion was made that I call the Naval Hospital in San Diego. At 11:30 a.m. the same morning, I talked to the Archive Record Keeper, who also had no record. On May 31, 1974, Officer L. E. Hubbard of Orange, Texas, brought six periapical radiographs in an envelope from Dr. James D. Rice, 1208 Elm Street, Orange, Texas, 77630, telephone 713-883-3131. Comparisons of the antemortem and postmortem radiographs reveal that the fillings in the lower left first molar, number 19, and the lower right first molar, number 30, are the same. The pulp chambers are the same in outline radiographically on the following teeth: the lower left first molar, number 19, the lower left first bicuspid, number 21, the lower left second bicuspid, number 20, the lower right first bicuspid, number 28, the lower right second bicuspid, number 29, and the lower right first molar, number 30. There is a distal curve on both sets of radiographs for the lower right first bicuspid, number 28.

At approximately 1:40 p.m. on May 31, 1974, I contacted the Office of Dr. James D. Rice, in Orange, Texas. Dr. Rice was

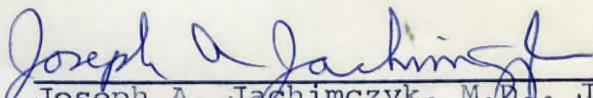
out for the afternoon; however, I talked to his assistant, Miss Barbara Bryan, who gave me the charting of the work that Dr. Rice had done. Comparisons: There were the same type fillings, Blendant, in the lingual of the upper right lateral, number 7. An occlusal filling was present in the upper left first molar, number 15, which was the same. An occlusal filling was present in number 18, the lower left second molar, the same. An occlusal and a buccal or facial filling were present in number 31, the lower right second molar, which were the same.

I also reviewed the dental records obtained from the Medical Records Section of the Department of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, on John M. Sellars, 463-96-6390, done at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, California, on August 11, 1972. The outlines were only scantily drawn on the Navy Record, but were similar to the postmortem record in the following teeth: upper left second molar, number 15; lower left second molar, number 18; lower left first molar, number 19; lower right first molar, number 30; lower right second molar, number 31, which had an occlusal and buccal filling.

Based upon the comparisons of two antemortem records with the postmortem dental examination, there are fourteen points of exact identity.

  
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Paul G. Stimson, D.D.S., M.S.

At approximately 11:00 a.m. on May 31, 1974, the dental records of John Manning Sellars were brought to me by Criminal Investigator Hubbard of the Orange County County Attorney's Office. Based upon the dental criteria comparisons, the head hair samples, the clothing, the forceps and .270 cartridges found in the clothing, it is our opinion beyond a reasonable doubt that this is the body of John Manning Sellars, Social Security Number 463-96-6390, who disappeared on July 12, 1973. I personally notified Mrs. Manning Sellars at approximately 2:30 p.m. on May 31, 1974.

  
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Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., J.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner

SUPPLEMENTAL

On August 15, 1973, Dr. G. Sheldon Green, Assistant Medical Examiner, handed me eight metallic center fire rifle cartridges bearing the head stamp of caliber .270 Winchester. Four of the cartridges bore the head stamp "Browning 270 Win" and were loaded with a spitzer-type jacketed bullet with a lead tip exposed. The remaining four cartridges bore the head stamp "W-W Super 270 Win" and were loaded with a spitzer-type jacketed bullet with a lead tip exposed.

It is my opinion that all eight of the cartridges above mentioned have been re-loaded for the following reasons:

- 1) The primers seated in the cartridges bearing the head stamp W-W Super 270 Win revealed deformation by bending of the rear of the primer cups. Three of the four cartridges so primed of the W-W head stamp were found to have the rear of the primer cup protruding from the rear of the cartridge head varying distances. One of the four cartridges bearing the W-W head stamp had a noticeable bend in the brass at the case mouth at the point where the bullet is seated in the case.
- 2) The four cartridges bearing the head stamp "Browning 270 Win" had traces of a factory-type crimp at the juncture of the case mouth and bullet; however, such crimp appeared to have been removed by either firing or pulling of the bullet prior to the time the present bullets were placed in the cartridge case. The crimp impressions were far more shallow than those of unfired factory cartridges. Three of the four cartridges bearing the head stamp "Browning 270 Win" were found to have the primer cups deformed by bending at the base.

Subsequent to the foregoing examination of the above mentioned cartridges, they were returned to Chief Medical Examiner Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., and placed in the safe on August 15, 1973.

Holman C. Gregory

DOCTOR'S COPY

862  
1965

V5.112 REV 1/58

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

STATE OF TEXAS

I. PLACE OF DEATH		CERTIFICATE	
a. COUNTY		Chambers	
b. CITY OR TOWN (if outside city limits, give precinct no.)		Precinct 13	
b. CITY OR TOWN (if outside city limits, give precinct no.)		c. LENGTH OF STAY in 1 b.	
d. NAME (if not in hospital, give street address) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION		Borden County Line in Chambers County Jefferson, Texas, 3 1/2 Mi. West of Jefferson County, Texas	
e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS?			

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

STATE FILE NO.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

DOCTOR'S COPY

862  
1965

3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print)			(a) First <b>JOHN</b>	(b) Middle <b>MANNING</b>
5. SEX <b>Male</b>	6. COLOR OR RACE <b>White</b>		7. Married <input type="checkbox"/> Never Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>	
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) <b>None</b>		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <b>None</b>		
13. FATHER'S NAME <b>Manning Roy Sellers</b>				
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown)			16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <b>Un-available</b>	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH [Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).] PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:  Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the under- lying cause last.  }      DUE TO (b)  DUE TO (c)			<b>Gunshot wound and through.</b>	
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED				
20a. ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/>	SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/>	HOMICIDE <b>JK</b>	20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED <b>Shot.</b>	
20c. TIME OF INJURY <b>UNK.</b>	Hour a.m. p.m.	Month <b>found</b>	Day <b>8</b>	Year <b>13 73</b>
20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>		20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office building, etc.) <b>Found Chambers County from autopsy findings</b>		
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <b>Found</b> on <b>from autopsy findings</b>				
22a. SIGNATURE <b>Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D.</b>				
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) <b>Removal</b>			23b. DATE <b>June 2, 1974</b>	
23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) <b>Orange</b>			(State) <b>Texas</b>	
25a. REGISTRAR'S FILE NO.				
25b. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR				

e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS?		f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM?	
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Last <b>SELLARS</b>		4. DATE OF DEATH <b>August 13, 1973 (found)</b>	
8. DATE OF BIRTH <b>July 14, 1955</b>		9. AGE (In years last birthday) <b>18</b>	
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <b>Texas</b>		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <b>U.S.A.</b>	
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <b>Gloria McDonald</b>		17. INFORMANT <b>Manning Roy Sellars (father)</b>	
<b>s (4) of chest, through</b>		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH	
RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(e)			
19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <b>YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
URRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of Item 18.)			
20. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <b>Precinct #3</b>		COUNTY <b>Chambers</b>	STATE <b>Texas</b>
19. to <b>3-13-73</b> , 19. and last saw the deceased alive			
m. on the date stated above, and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.			
2b. ADDRESS <b>209 Courthouse Houston, Texas</b>		22c. DATE SIGNED <b>6-17-74</b>	
23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIAL <b>Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery</b>			
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE <b>Cleyar Funeral Home, Inc.</b>			
25c. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <b>6343</b>			